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PRESS RELEASE

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Goat Hunt Closes North of Valdez Arm

(Cordova)- Registration permit hunt RG249 for mountain goats in Unit 6D will close at 11:59 p.m. on September 21 by Emergency Order of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Hunt area RG249 includes areas east of Columbia Glacier, north of Valdez Arm and west of Port Valdez, Shoup Bay and Shoup Glacier.

Aerial surveys found a minimum count of about 270 goats in registration permit area RG249. The department set the maximum allowable state harvest at 9 goat units, and an additional harvest of 4 goat units for federal subsistence hunters (13 goat units total). Additional take beyond the harvest objective could harm the long-term stability of the mountain goat population. According to Cordova Area Biologist Charlotte Westing, the harvest is currently at 4 billies and 2 nannies (8 out of the 9 goat units allotted for state harvest). Nannies count as 2 goat units and billies count as 1 unit towards the harvest objective. Hunters are currently in the field, and therefore it is likely that additional goats have been taken and not yet reported. This closure is necessary to prevent unsustainable harvest.

This closure affects only registration permit hunt RG249 in Unit 6D. All other mountain goat hunting regulations in the remainder of Game Management Unit 6 are not affected by this emergency order.

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